

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks and arguments, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-59 were originally presented for consideration in this application, and the Examiner's indication that Claims 35-39, 47-51 and 53 contain patentable subject matter is noted with appreciation. By the foregoing amendment Claims 18-23, 38, 50 and 52 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; Claims 1, 10, 24, 35, 39, 41, 47, 51 and 53 have been revised; and new Claims 60-74 have been added to afford the applicants the breadth and scope of patent protection to which they are entitled. Accordingly, Claims 1-17, 24-37, 39-49, 51 and 53-74 are now present in this application for consideration and allowance.

Claims 1-17, 24-37, 39-49, 51 and 53 currently stand substantively rejected, as being anticipated or obvious as the case may be, based on the prior art references set forth by the Examiner in his January 7, 2003 Office Action. To overcome these substantive claim rejections, and thereby place all of the currently pending claims in this application in a condition for allowance, the following action has been taken in the foregoing amendment.

1. Independent Claims 1, 24, 54 and 56 have been amended to incorporate therein the limitations of objected-to Claim 38 (now canceled) to thereby place these claims, and Claims 2-9, 25-34, 40 and 57-59 which depend therefrom, in a condition for allowance;
2. Independent Claims 10 and 55 have been amended to incorporate therein the limitations of objected-to Claim 39 to thereby place these claims, and Claims 11-17 which depend therefrom, in a condition for allowance;

3. Independent Claim 41 has been amended to incorporate therein the limitations of objected-to Claim 50 (now canceled) to thereby place this claim, and Claims 42-46 which depend therefrom, in a condition for allowance;
4. Objected-to dependent Claim 35 has been rewritten in independent form to thereby place this claim, and its dependent Claims 36 and 37, in a condition for allowance.;
5. Objected-to dependent Claim 39 has been rewritten in independent form to thereby place this claim, and new Claims 60-69 which depend therefrom, in a condition for allowance.
6. Objected-to dependent Claim 47 has been rewritten in independent form to thereby place this claim, and Claims 48 and 49 which depend therefrom, in a condition for allowance;
7. Objected-to dependent Claim 51 has been rewritten in independent form to thereby place this claim, and new Claims 70-74 which depend therefrom, in a condition for allowance; and
8. Objected-to dependent Claim 53 has been rewritten in independent form to place it in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendment, remarks and arguments, all of the claims currently pending in this application are now seen to be in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance of Claims 1-17, 24-37, 39-49, 51 and 53-74 is therefore earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is hereby requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at 972/516-0030 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

KONNEKER & SMITH, P.C.



J. Richard Konneker
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 28,867

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660 N. Central Expwy., #230
Plano, Texas 75074
972/516-0030

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231,

on April 28, 2003
Diane Sutton